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Nodwick™



THE GREAT NITWICK HUNT!

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THANK THE GODS, I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK WE'D IMAGINED HIM.

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO HIRED NITWICK IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SO WHERE'D HE GO?

WELL, YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU GET T' BE MY AGE, THE MEMORY STARTS SLIPPING A LITTLE AND YOU NEED A LIL' SOMETHIN' TO GET IT GOIN' AGAIN, YOU CATCH MY DRIFT?

OH, SURE, I'VE GOT JUST THE BLESSING FOR THAT, HERE.



OH... I CAN REMEMBER... EVERYTHING! MY WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN ONE LONG DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF DRINKIN' AND PUSHIN' AWAY THOSE WHO LOVED ME! IT'S ALL BEEN A WASTE! I'M NEVER DRINKIN' AGAIN!

I GOTTA GO FIND MY KIN AN' BEG FORGIVENESS FOR ALL I DONE T' 'EM! I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO—



YO, GRAMPS, THAT'S TOUCHING AND ALL, BUT SOMEWHERE IN THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT A HENCHMAN WEARING A BEANIE-COPTER HELMET, RIGHT?

RIGHT, HE AND THE SUCKERS THAT HIRED 'IM WENT T' RAID TH' HOBTRILL STRONGHOLD. NOW CAN I GET BACK T' WHILIN' AN' LAMENTIN'?

KNOCK YOURSELF OUT.

FORGIVE ME, EVERYONE! I DONE LET EVER' ONE O' YA DOWN! SACKCLOTH AN' ASHES!

HOBTRILLS?

THE OFFSPRING OF HOBGOBLINS AND TROLLS. APPARENTLY THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT WITH A DATING SERVICE AND SEVERAL GALLONS OF LOVE POTION. THE RESULTS WEREN'T PRETTY.

LET'S GO BACK TO CAMP AND GET ROWEN AND ORVILLE. NITWICK'S TRAIL ISN'T GETTING ANY HARMER.



ONE HENCH-EXTRACTION LATER.

I HOPE ORVILLE DOESN'T GET SCARED.

I HOPE ORVILLE IS HUNGRY.

I HOPE HE'S NOT PICKY ABOUT HIS MENU FOR ONCE!

SPELL BLASTS. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY GAVE AS GOOD AS THEY GOT.

THEY DIDN'T REPLACE THE OUTER GUARD. THAT'S A GOOD SIGN, RIGHT?

HE KNOWS WHAT WE WANT?

DRAGONS CAN'T TALK FOR A COUPLE OF DECADES AFTER THEY HATCH, BUT HE UNDERSTANDS A LOT OF WHAT WE SAY.

HE ALSO PROBABLY SMELLS HENCHMAN.

THERE'S LIGHT UP AHEAD. EVERYONE ON YOUR TOES.

WITH NITWICK, IT'S NOT UNTIL YOU NEED HIM TO START HAULING LOOT THAT THE WHOLE "ADVENTURING" SYSTEM STARTS TO BREAK DOWN.

OVER HERE, GUYS! I THINK ORVILLE SMELLS THEM!



ALL HUMMM.
NOT EXACTLY WHAT I
WAS EXPECTING.

WHAT'S
GOING ON?

THANK GOODNESS
HELP HAS ARRIVED! YOU
MUST HELP US DESTROY
THIS FOUL CREATURE!

HE IS THE GREATEST
FORCE OF DARKNESS I'VE EVER
ENCOUNTERED!



YOU
MEAN THE
HOBTRILL GUY,
RIGHT?

NO! THE
LARGE-NOSED
ONE WITH THE
BEANIE--



ANOTHER
ONE! WE ARE OUT-
FLANKED!



AND THEY BROUGHT
A DRAGON!

I THINK
YOU'VE BEEN DOWN
HERE FOR TOO LONG,
MISS--?



WHOA,
THERE, TAKE IT
EASY. LOOK, THE
DRAGONS ON YOUR
SIDE, SEE?

ELABORATE A LITTLE
ON THIS. "GREATEST FORCE OF DARKNESS"
YOU'VE GOT HERE.

THIS THING
WAS SUPPOSED TO BE
OUR HENCHMAN FOR THIS
JOURNEY. WE WERE A PARTY
OF SIX, BUT ONLY MYSELF
AND OUR CLERIC STILL
SURVIVE.

AT FIRST I
THOUGHT NITWICK
WAS MERELY SLACKING OFF
HIS DUTIES. LITTLE DID I
KNOW HE COULD WORK
BLACK MAGIC.

BLACK
MAGIC?
HMM?

WE HAD DEFEATED ABOUT
HALF OF THE HOBTROLLS WHEN THIS
LITTLE AGENT OF EVIL SOUNDED THE
ALARM AND BETRAYED US TO THEIR
CHIEF AND HIS ELITE WARRIORS. THEY
SLEW OUR FRIENDS.

JUST WHEN WE
TWO WERE ABOUT TO
BREATHE OUR LAST, NITWICK
COMMANDED THEM.



GO AHEAD.
TELL THEM, CHIEF
GORDTHUK.

MY PEOPLE!
WE NOW SERVE LORD
BAPHUMAYAU! GO TO
THE TOWN OF KRUIZING
HOLLOW AND JOIN HIS
FORCES THERE! OBEY
HIS GENERALS AS YOU
WOULD ME!



AND WE CAN
DEAL WITH THESE LAST TWO
PESTS, NO PROBLEM.



WITH THE
OTHER HOBTROLLS
GONE, WE WERE ABLE
TO CONTAIN NITWICK
WITH HOLY SPELLS
AND TALISMANS, BUT
WE'VE BEEN AT IT FOR
A DAY AND A HALF WITH
NO REST. I FEAR HE
WILL ESCAPE!

I DON'T
REMEMBER ANYTHING
ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING ON
NITWICK'S RESUME.

IT'S GOT
TO BE THE TOOTH.
PROLONGED EXPOSURE
TO A PIECE OF A GOD
HAS GOT TO HAVE SIDE
EFFECTS.

WE'LL
JUST HAVE
TO PERFORM
SOME DIVINE
DENTISTRY,
THEN.

NOT TO
MENTION DESTROY
US ALL.









THE GUYS
WON'T BE ABLE TO
KEEP HIM BUSY FOR
LONG.

WE'VE
GOT TO
HELP!

WITHOUT GETTING
FROGGED!

TOO
LATE FOR
THAT...

...BUT I THINK
YOU'LL ALL MAKE
VERY GOOD
CROWDERS.

ZOWIE!

HONESTLY!
YOU'RE AS BAD AS YEAGAR, YOU
KNOW THAT?

BZORT!

SEE WHAT
YOU GET FOR DISTRACTING
ME?

YOU'RE STILL
GETTING A STERN
LECTURE WHEN THIS
IS OVER!

HOPEFULLY
NOT IN A NEARBY
POND.

PIFFANY FINDS A MOMENT'S RESPIRE FROM HER PURSUER.

MAYBE IF YOU MISSED US, WE'D CHANGE BACK.

I THINK THAT ONLY WORKS IF I'M A PRINCESS AND I'M SAYING MY KISS FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION.

IT MIGHT COME TO THAT AT THIS RATE.

IS THIS PILE OF ROCK TAKEN?

VEAGAR! WHAT HAPPENED?

HE GOT ORVILLE, TOO.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

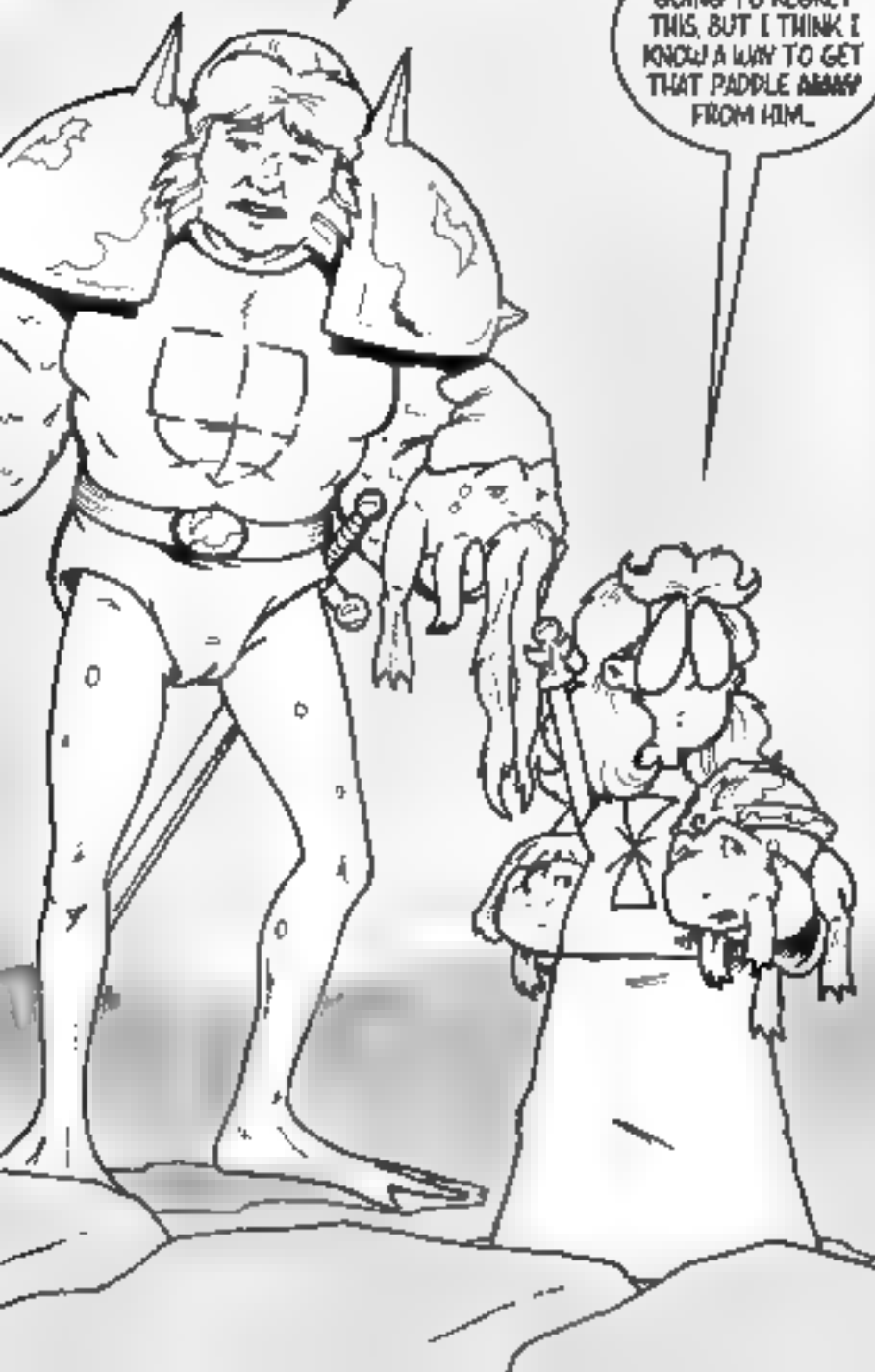
OH, THAT. HE KINDA GRAZED ME WITH HIS LAST SHOT.

I KNOW I'M GOING TO REGRET THIS, BUT I THINK I KNOW A WAY TO GET THAT PADDLE AWAY FROM HIM.

MOMENTS LATER.

COME OUT, EVERYONE. IT'LL BE BETTER IN THE LONG RUN, OR SO THE VOICES IN MY HEAD TELL ME.

YOU GOT IT!





YOWCH!

GOOD TOOTH
GOOD TOOTH
GOOD TOOTH
EVIL!



CHOMP!



YAY! HAPPY
ENDING!



COMPARED
TO WHAT?

I THINK
WE SHOULD
LOOK IN THE
CURTAIN, DON'T
YOU?

MANY DE-FROGGINGS LATER...





ALMOST, NITWICK DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE YOU DID WHILE YOU WERE UNDER THE TOOTH'S MIGHTY INFLUENCE?

MAYBE... I WANT TO SAY I FED A BUNCH OF OTHER ADVENTURERS TO HORDES OF MONSTERS, THEN SENT THE MONSTERS OFF TO JOIN AN ARMY OF SOME KIND. IT'S ALL A BIT HAZY...

MORE MONSTERS? THIS MIGHT BE WHAT FLATTENS THE FANG & FLAGON TAVERN ONCE AND FOR ALL

NOT WHILE I HAVE A RUNNING TAB THERE! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THE TAVERN

TOWN!

THAT, TOO!



IT'S TOO BAD WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE OF THE ANTI-BAPHUMAL WEAPONS HANDY.

OR ANY OF THE PROPHECIES. IT'S ALL UP IN THE AIR FROM NOW ON.

WAIT A MINUTE... I HAVE SOME PROPHECIES!



WHAT, YOU FOUND THEM UNDER YOUR PILLOW THIS MORNING OR SOMETHING?

NO, NO! WHEN YOU BOYS WERE ERASED FROM EXISTENCE...

I STILL HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT THAT ONE.

THE CLERGY IN BLACK GAVE ME THREE PROPHECIES, SORT OF. ONE AND TWO OF THEM CAME TRUE ALREADY!



WHAT DID THEY TELL YOU?

WELL, THEY SAID "FIRSTLY, THE FORCES OF GOOD WILL BETRAY YOU.

SECONDLY, WHEN TRIED BY FIRE, DO NOT RESORT TO YOUR FINAL STRENGTH, BUT WAIT DELIVERANCE FROM THE HUMBLEST YET MIGHTIEST OF CREATURES.

AND LASTLY, THE LEAST OF MEN CARRIES THE KEY TO SALVATION."



I DON'T SAVVY

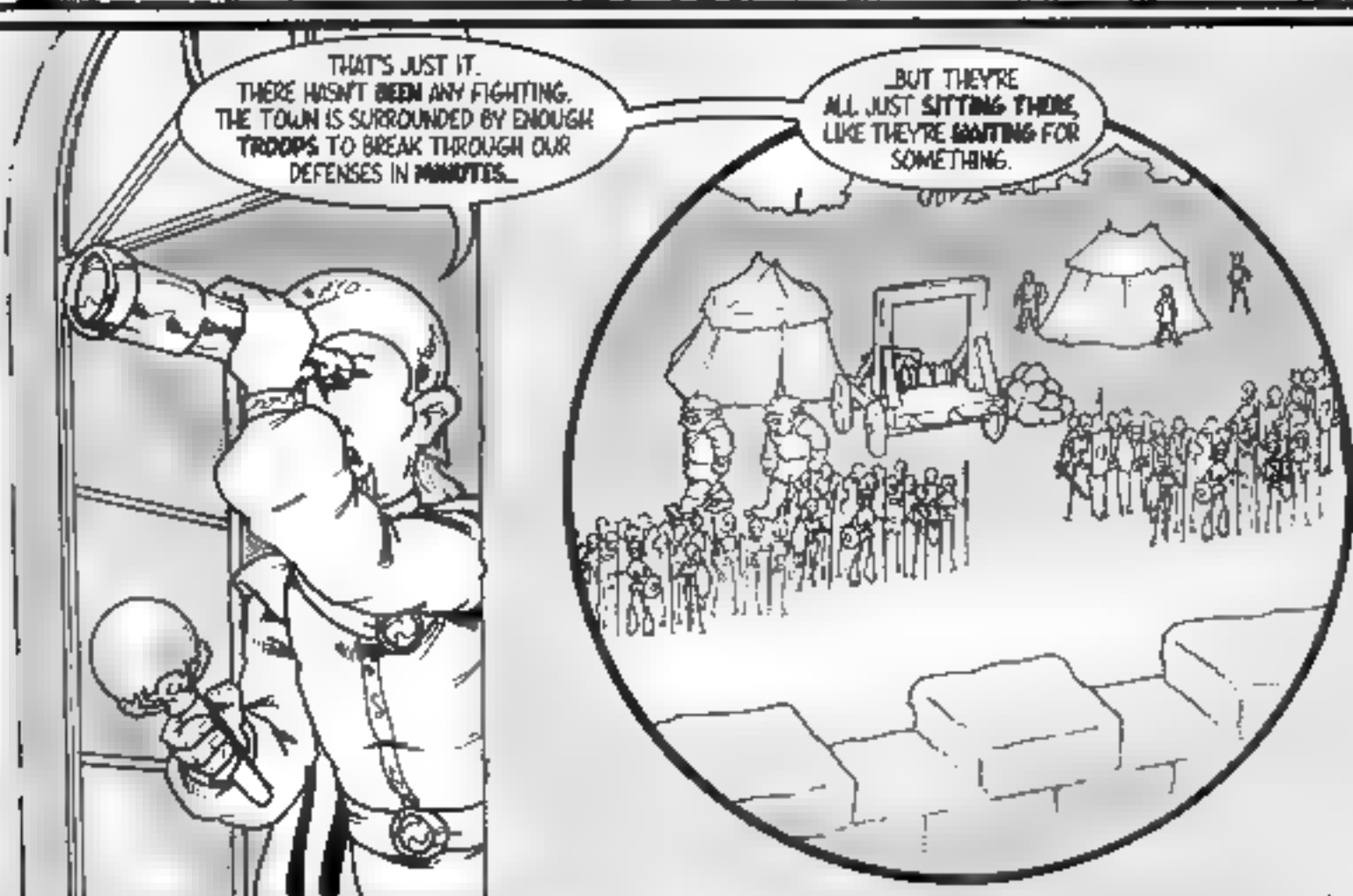
THE FORCES OF GOOD BETRAYED US AT THE MONASTERY WHERE WE FOUND AND EXPLODED MOST OF THE WEAPONS THAT WOULD GET RID OF BAPHUMAL.

AND NOW, WE GOT THE TOOTH FROM NITWICK. A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK HENCHMEN ARE "THE LEAST OF MEN" SEE?

PREACH ON, SISTER.

I HEAR THAT.







THE CITADEL WAS
WINDOW DRESSING. OUR SOURCES
AND SCRYING TELL US THAT KRUTZING
HOLLOW WILL BECOME THE CENTER OF A
DIMENSIONAL NEXUS THREE DAYS
FROM NOW.

IT'S FROM THIS
NEXUS THAT BAPHUMAZIL WILL
DRAW THE POWER HE NEEDS TO
MAKE HIMSELF THE SUPREME
POWER ON THIS PLANET.

OY VEE.

DON'T WORRY!
THE FORCES OF GOODNESS AND
FLUTTERING BUTTERFLIES ARE
ON OUR SIDE!

YEAH, THOSE
WELL, AT LEAST HE
SHOULDN'T KNOW
WE'RE COMING.

AT THAT MOMENT, IN A KRUTZING HOLLOW FLOPHOUSE...

THEY ARE
COMING.

HOW DO
YOU KNOW, MY
LORD?

WHY DO
YOU PERSIST IN
QUESTIONING
YOUR GOD?

QUESTIONS ARE NOT
UNWELCOME, SO LONG AS THEY ARE
FREE FROM INSOLENCE.

I KNOW THEY ARE COMING
BECAUSE THEY CARRY A PART OF ME WITH THEM:
THE PART OF ME THAT BROUGHT MORE EVIL
BEINGS TO OUR CAUSE.

BUT I
THOUGHT YOU
HAD SECURED ALL PARTS
OF YOUR CORPOREAL
FORM!

AS HAD I, EVIDENTLY FATE
HAD OTHER IDEAS. WE MUST KEEP THEM AWAY
FROM THIS PLACE UNTIL AFTER THE NEXUS REACHES
ITS FULL POTENTIAL.



AFTER NIGHT HAS FALLEN, OUR HEROES LAND NEAR THEIR TOWN.

I CAN SEE THEIR
CAMPFIRES.

DANG,
THERE'S A LOT
OF UGLY OVER
THERE.

WELL-
ARMED
UGLY.

THE CAMPFIRES
DON'T TELL THE WHOLE
STORY REMEMBER: THE
UNDEAD DON'T NEED
CAMPFIRES.

THE GUILD'S
MAGIC WARDS ARE
STILL INTACT, AT LEAST
THE TOWN IS STILL IN
ONE PIECE.

BUT FOR
HOW LONG? AS
SOON AS THEY KNOW
WE'RE UP TO
SOMETHING, I'M SURE
A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE
GOING TO GET
HURT.

SUDDENLY,

BE NOT AFRAID
AND DO NOT BE FAINT
OF HEART!

FOR BEHOLD,
I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS
OF GREAT STRATEGY AND
CUNNING PLANS!

DUDE! YOU
WANNA DOUSE THE HOLY AURA
BEFORE YOU ATTRACT A BATTALION
OF SOMETHING BIG, HAIRY AND
TICKED-OFF?

RELAX.
ONLY YOU GUYS CAN
SEE ME.

HI, ROWEN!
YOU'RE LOOKING
LOVELIER THAN
EVER!

OHI UHL. THANKS!

DON'T YOU
HAVE A MESSAGE TO
DELIVER?

A YEAGAR-ANGEL?

IT DOESN'T
COMPUTE FOR ME,
EITHER.

OKAY, FOLKS. I'M THE
HERALD OF THE GODS, SO LISTEN UP. TONIGHT,
YOU SHALL BE VISITED BY RANNO, ONE OF THE BIGGER GODS
AND PART-TIME "POWER WHAT IS." HE'S GOING TO GIVE
YOU A SCHEME TO HELP GET YOU INTO
THE TOWN UNDETECTED.

BE SURE TO
GIVE HIS ADVICE A
GOOD LISTENING-TO,
SO YOU CAN ACT
ACCORDINGLY.

OH, AND ROWEN NEEDS
A BOW. BE SURE TO PICK ONE
UP SOMEWHERE.

GOTTA
RUN. CATCH YOU
LATER!



WOW. IT'S LIKE
YOU HAVE A CUTER BROTHER
THAT WENT INTO THE
MINISTRY.

WHADDYA
MEAN, "CUTER?"

A GOD'S COMING!
AND ME WITHOUT ANY
REFRESHMENTS!

I DON'T
GET IT. WHY NOT
JUST HAVE THE ANGEL
TELL US WHAT
TO DO?

THE WAYS
OF THE GODS ARE
MYSTERIOUS, I
GUESS...



*-VERY
MYSTERIOUS,
INDEED-*



Hench You
Later!



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